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**Andrew Cummins**  
**President, ICON Computer Users Group**  
**andrewcummins@yahoo.com**

## Ask the Computer

Our fellow ICON member, Marion Garrett, likes to preach "Ask the computer!" When you have a problem that you don't have an answer for, consider that a good portion of human knowledge is out there on the Internet. An amazing amount of this information is put on the Internet just to answer your questions. So, ask the computer.

Some people are held back from getting information from the Internet because they don't realize how much information is out there and at their fingertips. Of course, there are facts, lots of facts. But, not just facts, but also tools to use those facts. Users of the iPad or Android portable devices know they can ask the device something like "Where is the closest Italian restaurant?" They get an answer, complete with a lot of related information. You don't have to pull up a map and look for the closest place yourself. Google maps for the PC can do this too, but your PC doesn't have GPS so you have to manually provide your location.

Where to eat? How to fix your car? What's in your drinking water? Yes, you can look up water test results for your municipal water supply. Government records that are open to the public are on the Internet. Need a manual for any appliance or gadget you own? Yep, that too. Need to know how to dope semiconducting material to make a transistor? Anything.

Quality varies. You can go to *YouTube* and search there for a solution in the form of a video to show you how to do something. You will find videos by amateurs, who look like they have never held a camera before, all the way to videos made by experts in both the subject they're demonstrating and in presenting that information in a video. But, your answer is out there, either way.

The Internet is home turf to computer professionals and hobbyists. So, this is the area where you will find the most information, and you will find it easily. Have a Windows error message? A million other people have the same error message, and so a number of people out there have already provided a solution for you. If your problem is more obscure, you might find the answer in a slightly cryptic discussion forum rather than a web page that presents a nicely illustrated course of action, but your answer is out there.

Sometimes information is illusive. Some categories of information are harder to find, either because there are fewer people interested in those subjects or because of the nature of that information itself. On a technical subject like computers that information might be hard to follow. This is where ICON comes in, for your computer questions. Maybe you need short answer, maybe you'd like a class on the subject. Ask ICON on the Forums at [www.iconusersgroup.org](http://www.iconusersgroup.org).

—Andrew

**See PICNIC INFORMATION ON PAGE 2**



**Program Preparations for September 2012****Saturday, Sep 8, Smith Park, 1536 E Division, Springfield MO — ICON's Annual Picnic**

10:30 a.m. Arrive to help set up (Put paper on tables, etc.) Billy Sims BBQ is catering pulled pork, chopped beef, and chicken, coleslaw, potato salad, and baked beans.



11:00 a.m. Arrive with other sides, Salad or Dessert

12:00 p.m. Plan to eat. Bring things for the "Trade table"

**Tuesday, Sep 11, The Library Center (Meeting Room B)**

10:00 a.m. **Open Group Discussion, Check the website to make sure Mick can be there.**

**Saturday, Sep 15, The Library Center (Harrison Room)**

3:00 p.m. **Using the Linux Operating System**

**Saturday Sep 22, Brentwood Library**

10:30 a.m. Genealogy SIG — **Report from OGS Fall Conference.**

11:30 a.m. Brown Bag Lunch and **1-on-1 Help Desk**

12:30 p.m. Windows SIG — Check the website — [iconusersgroup.org](http://iconusersgroup.org)

1:45 p.m. Advanced Technology Forum — **Open Group Discussion**

**Program Preparations for October 2012****Saturday, Oct 13 , Brentwood Library**

10:30 a.m. Check website [iconusersgroup.org](http://iconusersgroup.org)

11:30 a.m. Check website [iconusersgroup.org](http://iconusersgroup.org)

12:30 p.m. . Check website [iconusersgroup.org](http://iconusersgroup.org)

**Tuesday, Oct 16, The Library Center (Meeting Room B)**

10:00 a.m. **Internet and Email — Check the website to make sure Mick can be there.**

**Saturday, Oct 20, The Library Center (Harrison Room)**

3:00 p.m. **Using the Linux Operating System**

**Saturday Oct 27, The Library Center (Meeting Room B)**

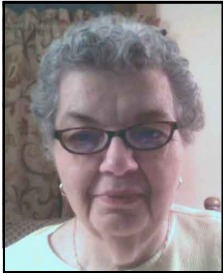
10:30 a.m. Genealogy SIG — Check the website — [iconusersgroup.org](http://iconusersgroup.org)

11:30 a.m. Brown Bag Lunch and **1-on-1 Help Desk**

12:30 p.m. Windows SIG — Check the website — [iconusersgroup.org](http://iconusersgroup.org)

1:45 p.m. Advanced Technology Forum — **Open Group Discussion**

**Please submit articles for the Sept. issue of THE ICON by **Sept. 15**, 2012 to: Mary Stewart at [macstew8@sbcglobal.net](mailto:macstew8@sbcglobal.net)**



## Interesting Sites to Visit on the Internet

Nancy Preffitt ICON Member  
ngpreffitt@juno.com

### **BREAKER, BREAKER**

May be a CBer's term, but we computer nuts need to heed it as well. We've had numerous discussions at meetings about taking regular breaks and how important it is to avoid physical pain and even more severe problems. Okay, no more excuses. Breaker is a simple program that you download and set up to suit yourself. Then, once an hour or whenever, it throws a timer up on the screen so you can stand up, walk around – or horror of horrors – do a few exercises. Your body will <http://davidvitelaru.com/software/breaker/>

### **LOOKING FOR A NEW, DIFFERENT HOBBY?**

If you're interested in learning something different, try this site. It's really confusing when you first get on, but just click on the British flag and suddenly everything is in English! There are both folding diagrams and animations to show you how to do [www.origami-club.com](http://www.origami-club.com)

### **BACK TO SCHOOL**

All the school talk that's around now that schools are open again may be leaving you with an interest in taking a class or two. For free would be good, too. Check out this site –Academic Earth – to find something interesting. There are lectures and tutorials listed on the home page that seem pretty neat. It's possible to earn a degree, too, but <http://www.academicearth.org/>

### **FIRES, FIRES, EVERYWHERE**

We've had a lot of fires in the USA this year. For a real eye-opener, though, try this NASA video. It's a wonder there's anything left standing on earth! [http://www.nasa.gov/home/hqnews/2011/oct/HQ\\_11-356\\_Earth\\_Fires.html](http://www.nasa.gov/home/hqnews/2011/oct/HQ_11-356_Earth_Fires.html)

### **FUN, UNCOMPLICATED GAME**

Entanglement seems easy enough. Just connect the lines to earn as many points as you can. That's what you think – at first! You'll find it a good time waster. I've been playing it for several months and it's still not easy! <http://entanglement.gopherwoodstudios.com/>

## Minutes of 11 August 2012 ICON General and Board Meeting

President Andrew Cummins called the meeting to order. Minutes of the 14 July meeting were read by Mary Phillips.

Shirley Emerson, Treasurer, gave the Treasurer's report and stated that all records agreed with the current bank statements.

Motion was made by John Somers to accept the minutes and the treasurer's reports. Second by Toni Somers. Motion carried.

### **New business:**

Mary sending membership roster to officers via email.

Motion to distribute membership roster by email to all members by Darin Kasterke. Second by Pat Burton. No objections. Mary will ask Sarah to send an email blast requesting for those who object to notify her by email at [mary@iconusersgroup.org](mailto:mary@iconusersgroup.org), and she will call those who have no email address to ask their permission.

Toni & John Somers will bring lunch to the October 13 meeting to celebrate their 58th anniversary.

Andrew will check with Billy Sims BBQ about catering the meat and possibly sides for the ICON picnic. Estimate 50-60 people. The rest of us will need to bring salads and desserts. ICON will furnish the beverages. Smith Park is reserved for 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Bring extra computer "stuff" for exchange.

Jim Stewart made motion to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Phillips, Secretary

### **WORD OF THE MONTH**

### **High Density**

Find the meaning elsewhere in this issue



## Windows Q&A SEP 2012

By Mary Phillips Icon member  
[mary@iconusersgroup.org](mailto:mary@iconusersgroup.org)



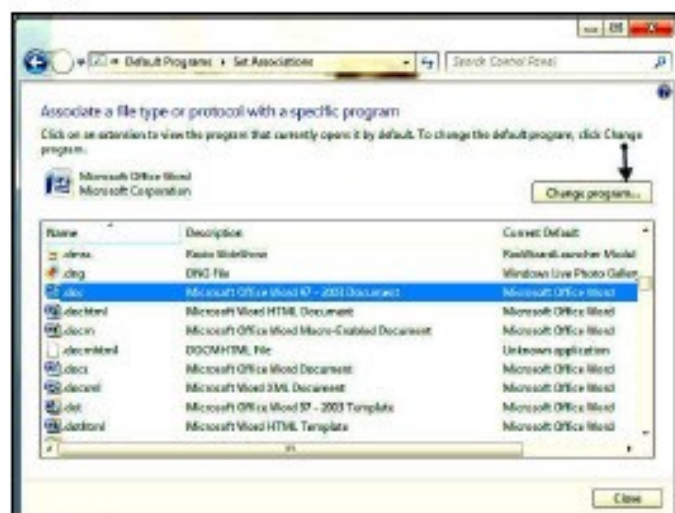
### Q1. My .doc files keep opening Photoshop and I can't see the file. How do I fix this?

**A1.** The problem has to do with the "file association" – the program that is assigned to open the file extension .doc. Each filename ends in a dot (period) and three letters that tell the computer what program to open. (Occasionally the file extension might have 2 or more than 3 letters.)

To correct the association between the file and the program, do the following:

#### Windows 7

1. Open Control Panel and click on Default Programs
2. Scroll or arrow down the left column until you see .doc and click on it. Notice what program has been associated with it.

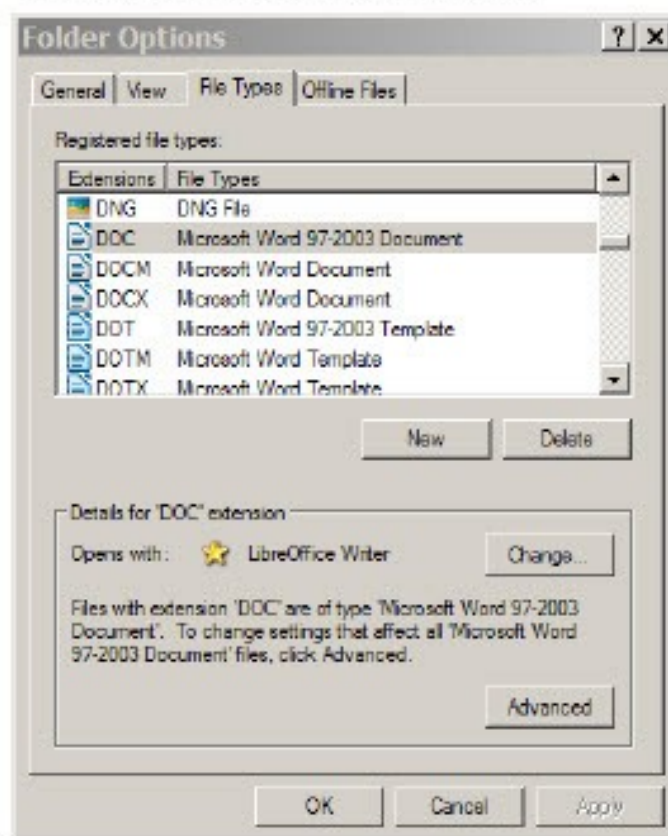


3. Click the Change Program button.
4. Select (click on) the appropriate program. If's not showing, click the Browse button to locate the program
5. Click OK. Click Close.

#### Windows XP

1. Open Control Panel and click on Folder Options, then click on the File Types tab.

2. Scroll or arrow down the left column until you see .doc and click on it.
3. Click the Change Program button.



4. Select (click on) the appropriate program. If's not showing, click the Browse button to locate the program
5. Click OK. Click Close.

### Q2. Since Microsoft issued a security warning in July about the vulnerability in gadgets and the sidebar in Windows Vista and Window 7, how do I turn off gadgets to protect my computer?

**A2.** Because an attacker who figured out how to take advantage of the vulnerabilities in gadgets could take complete control of your computer if the current user is logged on with administrative user rights, he could then install programs; view, change, or delete data; or create new accounts with full user rights. Users whose accounts are configured with standard user rights on the system could be less impacted than users who operate with administrative user rights.

*Continued on page 5*



*Continued from page 4 Q&A*

There are three things that need to be done:

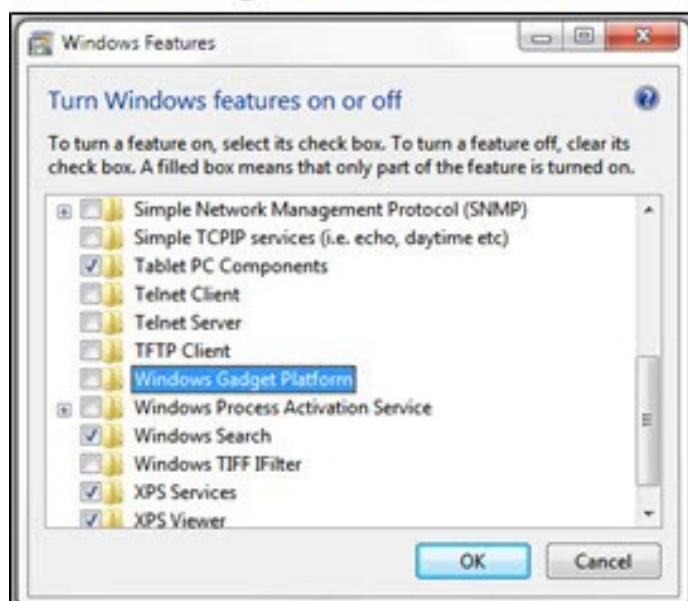
1. Be sure the Windows Updates are up-to-date.
2. Go to <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/2719662> and scroll down to Microsoft's "Fix it for me" section. Download the workaround Fix it program and Run it. The program can be saved to a flash drive to run on other computers.



[Disable Windows Sidebar and Gadgets](#)

Microsoft Fix it 50906

3. Follow the path: Start—Control Panel—Programs and Features and click on Turn Windows Features on or off. Uncheck Windows Gadget Platform. Click OK



**Q3. What things can I do on a computer even if I don't have an Internet connection?**

**A3. 1. Play games** included in Windows (Chess Titans, FreeCell, Hearts, Mahjong Titans, Minesweeper, Purple Place, Solitaire, and Spider Solitaire.)

**2. Write letters** and print them out to mail. (If you don't have a printer, Save As: the file to a flash drive and take it somewhere you have access to a printer.) The Springfield Greene

County Libraries have printer service available \$.10 for b/w and \$.50 for color per page with your library card.

3. **Design personalized greeting cards** using a card program (easiest), MS Paint, or a word processor. See videos: <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows7/help/videos/Make-a-greeting-card-using-Paint> and [http://www.ehow.com/video\\_4983409\\_create-fourfold-greeting-card-wordprocessing.html](http://www.ehow.com/video_4983409_create-fourfold-greeting-card-wordprocessing.html)

Free programs with greeting card templates include: Avery Wizard, Kodak Easy Share Software, Serif Page Plus, and Scribus. The latter two are free desktop publishing programs.

4. **Create signs, newsletters, business cards, labels, posters, banners, etc** using your word processor or a card program.

**5. Balance your checkbook** or **Create an address book** with a spreadsheet program such as MS Excel or MS Works spreadsheet, free programs include: OpenOffice Calc <http://www.openoffice.org/> Lotus Symphone <http://www-03.ibm.com/software/lotus/symphony/home.nsf/home> or Libre Office <http://www.favdownloads.com/download/Utilities/Utility/LibreOffice?a=6356&f=34930>

**6. Edit and Print out photos** or **create a photo album** (If you have a printer.) or save photos to a flashdrive and take it to your local Walgreen or Walmart store to print. Adobe Photoshop Elements is an excellent editor. Good free photo editing software include: Windows Live Photo Gallery, Paint.net, Photoscape, and Picasa 3.0.

**7. Start a recipe file/book** using your word processor. If you have a scanner, you can scan recipes from magazines or other cookbooks to save typing them in.

**8. Write a book and insert photos** using your word processor. An event in your life makes a great topic or interview a member of your family to record their memories or record your own for posterity.





## Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter by Dick Eastman

### Hands on with the Kingston Wi-Drive

Have you ever found yourself wishing you could extend the storage of your smartphone or tablet? If so, the Kingston Wi-Drive may be your solution.

This has to be one of the niftiest gadgets I ever purchased. I bought it because I thought it was a neat toy. However, I now find that I am using it almost day in and day out for a variety of reasons.

The Kingston Wi-Drive is a portable, battery-powered, **wireless** disk drive for your mobile devices. You can use it for all sorts of reasons with Windows, Macintosh, Linux, iPhone, iPad, iPod Touch, Android devices, Kindle Fire, and more. How else will you attach a disk drive to your iPhone or iPad? The Apple and Android devices do not come with extra memory slots, so there is no method of adding extra storage space. You also cannot connect a flash drive. The Kingston Wi-Drive solves that problem by becoming an external disk drive for those and other devices.

The Wi-Drive has many possible uses. For instance, you can make thousands of MP3 music files available on your iPhone or iPod Touch, even if the present storage is full. You do that by making the Wi-Drive an external drive that connects wirelessly to that device. Is your iPad already full of movies? Add several dozen more by using the Wi-Drive as an external disk drive. Want to carry all of your digital photos with you? If you place them on the Wi-Drive, a handheld device or a Windows, Macintosh, or Linux laptop can access them easily. Likewise, you can carry thousands more books for your Kindle Fire if you add a Wi-Drive. Genealogists will appreciate that they can carry thousands of .DOC or .TXT files with research notes and information with them on a research trip and read them at any time with a handheld device. If your handheld device is already constrained for storage space, the Wi-Drive can provide relief. Depending upon the model selected, you can add 16, 32, or 64 gigabytes of storage to any device that supports wi-fi connections.

With most handheld devices, you can't use a

plug-in flash drive! Yet you can connect to the Wi-Drive through Wireless-N wi-fi networking. If you use a USB cable, you can also connect from a Windows, Macintosh, or Linux computer in the same manner as using any other disk drive or flash drive that connects via USB.

The Wi-Drive lets you store and share your favorite content with up to three devices simultaneously. Those might be your own devices, such as



an iPhone or an iPad. They also might be devices belonging to your friends. You decide. Depending upon the model you purchase, it gives you 16, 32, or 64 gigabytes of added storage for your mobile device. The Wi-Drive allows you to share photos, videos, music and more with up to three users on their own mobile devices.

I will emphasize one point that escaped me when I purchased the device, however. The Wi-Drive is a great device for SHARING files you have previously placed on the battery-powered disk drive. However, it does not read AND WRITE files on all devices. Sound confusing? I'll explain.

When you connect the Wi-Drive to a Windows, Macintosh, or Linux computer by a cable plugged into the computer's USB connection, the disk drive acts like any flash drive. You can read files, write files, make folders and sub-folders, erase anything, copy files, and so on. In other words, it acts like any other disk drive—but ONLY WHEN CONNECTED BY A USB CABLE.

When you switch to wireless wi-fi connections, the Wi-Drive becomes a read-only device. Yes, you can use it with iPhones, iPads, iPod Touch,

*Continued on page 7*

*Continued from page 6* **Kingston Wi-Drive**

Android, Kindle Fire, Windows, Macintosh, Linux, and probably other computers as well. However, when connected by wi-fi, these devices will only be able to read files or copy files from the Wi-Drive to the device being used. You cannot copy files in the other direction (from handheld device to Wi-Drive), nor can you erase anything that is on the Wi-Drive. To write files or erase files, you need to plug the USB connection into a computer that supports USB, namely a Windows, Macintosh, or Linux computer.

So, again, the Wi-Drive is an excellent tool for **SHARING** files, but please do not think of it as a general-purpose read/write device under all conditions. It is a general-purpose read/write device only when connected via USB, not when connected via wireless wi-fi connections. That distinction escaped me when I ordered the device. It wasn't until I received it and started using it that I realized the differences.

The full user's manuals at <http://www.kingston.com/us/support/technical/products?model=WID> explains all this. I did not read that manual until AFTER I had purchased the Wi-Drive.

Anyone can access the Wi-Drive through any Internet browser or download one of the free Wi-Drive Apps to access and easily share the content on your Wi-Drive. You can optionally encrypt the Wi-Drive's wi-fi connections, using any of today's modern encryption methods (WPA, WEP, and several other variations), if you so desire. Even without password protection, the Wi-Drive has a wireless range of only 30 feet or so, limiting the number of hackers who could access it. It also obviously only works when it is powered on.

When I turn the Wi-Drive on and use it, I normally can see everyone within 30 feet, and I make my own determination if I need to password protect it or not. If I only have photographs, MP3 music files, and perhaps my genealogy stored on the Wi-Drive, I will probably not bother to password protect it. After all, those items are non-secret, and I really don't care if someone steals them or not. However, if I do store any sensitive files that I wish to keep secret, I certainly will be locking it up with encryption!

Unpacking, configuring, and using the Kingston

Wi-Drive is rather simple. It ships in a box that looks like it might contain a wristwatch. In other words, it is small. Once opened, the portable disk drive itself looks a lot like a modern cell phone, such as an iPhone or an Android phone. It is a sleek black box that is a bit larger than a credit card and maybe as thick as three or four credit cards stacked together. The specs state that it is 2.4 inches wide, 4.8 inches long, and 0.4 inches thick. The drive is just a bit smaller than my iPhone 4. The Wi-Drive weighs four ounces.

The battery should last for about four hours of normal use.

Technically, there is no hard drive in the Wi-Drive. All data is stored on flash memory that is inside the box, much the same as a flash drive. However, the Wi-Drive adds wi-fi wireless connectivity and the ability to connect to three devices simultaneously.

The Wi-Drive easily slips into a shirt pocket with room left over. Included in the same box are a charger and a slim "quick start" manual, written in several languages. The English instructions barely cover two small pages, and much of that is pictures. A full user's manual is available on the Kingston web site at <http://www.kingston.com/us/support/technical/products?model=WID> as a PDF file. If you have questions about the Wi-Drive, I suggest you read that manual before ordering.



I plugged in the charger, connected it to the Wi-Drive, and then settled down to read the instructions. The charger can be powered from a standard wall outlet by using the included power "cube," or it can be charged and powered by any laptop or desktop computer simply by plugging a

*Continued on page 8*

*Continued from page 7* **Wi-Drive**

USB cable into an available slot on the computer. When connected via a USB cable, the use of wi-fi wireless networking stops. When connected via the USB cable, the Wi-Drive will appear as an external disk drive in Windows, Macintosh, or Linux.

A small green light on the Wi-Drive flashes while it is being charged. Once fully charged, the light stops flashing and becomes steady. I went out and had dinner while waiting. When I returned, the light had stopped flashing.

I then downloaded Kingston's free iPhone app, which adds functionality when using an iPhone. It adds commands that are not available in the iPhone/iPad/iPod Touch operating system. It also includes a music player that allows for playing music directly from the Wi-Drive without using Apple's rather complex music player that requires the use of iTunes to copy music from a computer to the Apple device. The Wi-Drive's iPhone and iPad app also works in the background, allowing users to listen to music stored on the Wi-Drive while doing other things.

There's no need to add any extra apps when using Windows, Macintosh, or Linux as all the needed commands are already built into those operating systems. There is a free Android app available even though it is listed as "beta." A user's manual for Android devices is available at <http://www.kingston.com/us/support/technical/products?model=WID>.

The Wi-Drive can stream all content supported by the iPad/iPhone/iPod Touch: videos (m4v, mp4, mov, Motion, M-JPEG, AVI), audio (AAC, MP3, WAV), photos (JPEG, BMP, TIF). It can also display documents for many popular formats (PDF, DOC).

Once fully charged, I fired up the Wi-Drive and started experimenting. It was then I discovered that wi-fi connections cannot write to the Wi-Drive. I stopped and read the (larger) user's manual on the web site to learn the details.

The drive appeared in my computers and in the iPhone app with a name of KINGSTON. However, it is easy to rename it to anything you want. I changed my device's name to Wi-Drive.

I elected to use the Wi-Drive with no password required for access. When it is powered on, anyone within 30 feet or so can connect and access

the files stored on the Wi-Drive. I don't store any personal information on the drive, other than my name, so I am not concerned about security. If anyone wants a copy of any of those files, I'd gladly give them a copy. Of course, if I had something sensitive on the disk, I'd quickly invoke security.

I first loaded 500 MP3 songs and a couple of full-movie videos to test the device. I had no problems watching the movie on an iPad with a wireless connection while simultaneously listening to songs on the iPhone. Then I connected a laptop computer via wi-fi and copied a .DOC word processing file, again with no problems.

I have read reports claiming that three different iPads can connect to the Wi-Drive simultaneously and play three different movies without pauses or "jerkiness." However, I didn't have three different iPads available to test that claim.



One item that impressed me is the fact that the Kingston Wi-Drive connects to the Internet and to local computers at the same time. The Wi-Drive acts as an access point, sharing the Internet connection while simultaneously sharing the disk drive. To my knowledge, no other battery-powered wireless drive has that capability. Anyone with a Kingston Wi-Drive can use the portable drive and the Internet at the same time. This capability is the primary reason I purchased the Kingston Wi-Drive.

On the downside, the drive is formatted using FAT32. This means you can't store any files that are larger than four gigabytes on it. You could reformat it into NTFS, but then it won't work with a Mac unless you add an NTFS driver to the Mac. I happen to have NTFS drivers already installed on my Mac desktop and laptop, so that would not be

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## Homecoming

E.M. Hazell  
ICON member

During my brief stay at Camp Hamilton I managed to get in trouble. I took a sightseeing tour of New York on the Camp Hamilton Bus without permis-

sion. The bus driver allowed me to get off the bus at a Delicatessen store. My first purchase in America was half a pound of salami. My joy was brief. Apparently my husband Alva had been notified that his wife was missing. When I returned to the camp I was met by the official in charge of war-brides and my angry husband.

**Did I not understand QUARANTINE?** Probably not. I received a severe rebuke and silently prayed that I would not be shipped back to Germany. The following day we left the camp. We boarded a Greyhound Bus. My husband Alva carried the duffel bag and I had my modest suitcase. I secured a window seat.

"It'll be a long ride" Alva explained. The Ozarks, he told me, was in the heart of the country. We would be passing through many states.

There were mountains and valleys, rivers and lakes and always there were those little one-family houses like confectionary toys.

The bus stopped frequently for a 'rest stop' at a filling station and restaurant. If I got off the bus my husband did not allow me out of sight for fear I might wander off again.

Day followed night. Night turned into day. During the second day of travel I had little to say. I did know that those little one family houses were something I wanted; a house of my own.

"Do you live in a house like that?" I asked. I knew so little about Alva. I knew that he came from a large family. There were seventeen brothers and sisters; all by the same father and mother. Alva told me he was Scotch-Irish on his father's side. On his mother's side he was part Indian. His maternal grandfather was a Cherokee. Alva's family lived near a town called Branson. They had a small novelty business. I hadn't the vaguest idea what a novelty was.

here were lakes he told me and wild timber. It no longer mattered. I fell asleep and woke up from a dream about home. I no longer had any idea what home was. I just wanted to wake up feeling that the wheels on the bus had stopped turning.

When we arrived at St. Louis, Missouri, we changed to still another bus. We were just a couple of hundred miles from home, he told me. I just nodded. That was half the length of Germany. When we reached a small city called Springfield, we got off the bus. It was night. There was a restaurant but I wasn't hungry anymore. Even the Salami had lost its charm. My husband hailed a taxi. Now it would only be about forty miles, Alva said. 'Twice the length between Mannheim and Heidelberg', I thought. The taxi sped off into the night. Houses appeared and disappeared like ghostly apparitions. I fell asleep again. My husband woke me to tell me that we were home. The wheels had finally stopped. Alva and the taxi driver helped me out of the taxi. There was a chill and a faint wisp of snow in the air. Ahead of me there was a small well-kept little house. The door opened and a man and a woman stepped out.

"They're here!" said the man. The woman embraced me and bid me welcome. I was glued to the spot. It was only a short walk from the taxi to the door. I just couldn't move. My husband paid the driver and rushed to my side. Then there was an open door and a chair on the inside and I was seated. Alva introduced me. I could hear the sound of his voice. Everything was just slow-motion:

"This is my mom and this is my dad ---" And then he turned toward the other part of the house: "And these are my brothers and sisters!" And so they were; all lined up against the wall three deep, wall to wall people. I listened to my mother-in-law naming names, wondering if I ever could remember them all. Slowly I began to feel normal again. It was a grand welcome.

Alva explained to his family that the trip had tired me out. My father-in-law had rented a cabin just a short way from the house. With smiles and good-byes we were ushered out to the waiting car. "It's just a little ways from here," My father-in-law said. Soon the car pulled off the main road on to a small path that ended in front of a cabin.

*Continued on page 10*

Continued from page 9 Homecoming

"These are hunter's cabins," Alva explained. We were surrounded by trees. Sounds came from that forest that I had never heard before. And there was my first little house. My father-in-law said goodbye, got in the car and drove away. At last we were alone. I was actually in America in front of a little house. Alva opened the door and I peeked in. There was one room divided to serve as kitchen, dining and bedroom. Alva took me by the hand and allowed me to step inside. I actually screamed for joy. After all that traveling, there was a place just for us. All I saw was that big wonderful bed.

I peeled off all my layers of clothing. Rummaged in my little suitcase for a night gown and got into that glorious, glorious bed. I don't recall falling asleep. I woke up with birds chirping. My husband was still asleep. I slipped out of bed and quietly made my way to open the door. It was November and a slight snow had fallen. There was a freshness of air I wanted to breathe in deeply forever and ever and I felt that I was looking out at a dream. Around me there were little cabins covered with snow. There were pine trees and cedar trees, their limbs dusted with powdery stuff. It was enchantment. It was America's welcome and I could only smile and say, 'THANK YOU'.



#### QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

"The greater danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high and we miss it, but that it is too low and we reach it." Michelangelo

## Surf'n Granny

**Grandma's on the net again, the kitchen's not her home.**

**She used to make us cherry pies, and call us on the phone**

**She would talk to us for hours; now she leaves us all alone.**

**We miss her homemade biscuits, and I'll make this little bet,**

**If you want to contact Grandma, you'll have to surf the net.**

**Grandma's surfing on the net, you bet, She is surfing on the net.**

**We've been calling her all morning, and we haven't got her yet.**

**She's on the E-mail network, with her electronic friends...**

**If you want to talk to Grandma, you'll have to surf the net.**

**She's never surfed at Malibu, or caught a wave at Waikiki,  
She's never seen a surfboard: hang ten doesn't mean a thing.**

**She's never met a beach-bum--Moon Doggie is just a pup.**

**But when she heads for her computer, you know the surf is up.**

**Grandma's getting older and her eyes are getting dim**

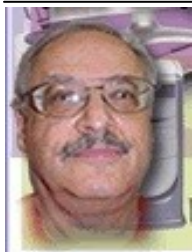
**Her random access memory, is half of what it's been.**

**When Grandpa comes to call on her, She'll say, "I can't go yet."**

**He'll have to wait for Grandma, cause she's surfing on the net.**







## FBI Warns About International "Ransomware" Email Scam

By Ira Wilsker

iwilsker@sbcglobal.net

WEBSITES:

<http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2012/august/new-internet-scam/new-internet-scam>

<http://www.microsoft.com/security/portal/Threat/Encyclopedia/Entry.aspx?Name=Trojan%3aWin32%2fReveton.A&ThreatID=-2147315638>

<http://www.bleepingcomputer.com/virus-removal/remove-fbi-monkeypак-ransomware>

<https://www.superantispyware.com/portablescannerhome.html>

[http://www.malwarebytes.org/products/malwarebytes\\_free](http://www.malwarebytes.org/products/malwarebytes_free)

It never ceases to amaze me how creative international cyber crooks can be. There are countless online scams and schemes intended to enrich crooks at the cost of innocent internet users. We have all heard of viruses, worms, Trojans, and other variations of malware, as published warnings have been disseminated since the early days of personal computing. While many types of malware are nasty, one of the nastiest is known in the security industry as "ransomware", which requires the victims to pay ransom in order to recover the use of their computers. These ransom cases have caught the attention of the FBI, which has posted a stern user warning online at [www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2012/august/new-internet-scam/new-internet-scam](http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2012/august/new-internet-scam/new-internet-scam).

In recent days, I have had several inquiries about locked computers with a strange warning official looking window with an FBI header that says "Your PC is blocked due to at least one of the reasons specified below:" The warning of the locked computer informs the user that the FBI has detected that the computer either had pirated "Video, Music, Software" or the user has been viewing or distributing prohibited Pornographic content (Child Porno, Zoophilia and etc.). For the possession of the pirated software the penalty is listed as (note the poor grammar in the post), " ... provides for a fine of two to five hun-

dred minimal wages or a deprivation of liberty for two to eight years." The penalty for the pornography charge is listed as, " ... a deprivation of liberty for four to twelve years." Just to increase the fear and worry of the user is an additional criminal charge, "Illegal access has been initiated from your PC without your knowledge or consent, your PC may be infected by malware, thus you are violating the law of Neglectful Use of Personal Computer. Article 210 of the Criminal Code provides for a fine of up to \$100,000 and/or a deprivation of liberty for four to nine years."

With the benevolence of a cable TV pitchman shouting "But wait! - there is more!", the FBI is allegedly offering the victims a deal, since it is likely the computer user's first offense. This great deal is " Fines may be paid within 72 hours after the infringement. As soon as 72 hours elapse, the possibility to pay the fine expires, and a criminal case is initiated against you automatically within the next 72 hours! To unblock the computer, you must pay the fine through MoneyPak of 100\$." Again, note the vernacular and wording, including the incorrect domestic format of "100\$". The instructions on processing a MoneyPak transaction to pay the "100\$" fine are explicit, directing the victims to only purchase a "100\$" prepaid Green-Dot MoneyPak at a 7-Eleven, CVS, Rite Aid, Kmart, Walmart, or Walgreen's. There will be a \$4.95 charge for the prepaid card, and then charge it with the "100\$". In the original warning email is a place for the victim to enter the code from the prepaid card, along with a prefilled "100 \$", and a button that says, "Pay MoneyPak" which will instantly transfer the "100\$" balance of the prepaid card to the cyber crooks. The email then states that, "When you pay the fine your PC will get unlocked in 1 to 48 hours after the money is put in the State' account. In case an error occurs, you'll have to send the code by email to [fine@fbi.gov](mailto:fine@fbi.gov)." If the victim pays the ransom, the computer is not released or unlocked; this is a complete scam. Some variations of the scam have recently appeared that have raised the ransom demand to \$200. Microsoft has posted a detailed description and removal instructions on its Microsoft Malware Protection Center website, referring to this malware as " Trojan:Win32/ Reveton.A" or " Trojan:Win32/Ransom.FL". These Trojans, when they sneak on to a victim's computer , locks the computer, and displays a localized version

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of the warning. In the U.S. the warnings appear to come from the FBI, while similar localized warnings appear to be from national or local law enforcement agencies in the UK, Germany, Italy, and other countries, all requiring the fine to be paid in a similar way using a specific prepaid card sold at localized specific retailers; in Europe, the crooks demand payments via the Ukash or Pay-Safe prepaid cards.

The FBI has analyzed the malware, and warns that, "Reveton is described as drive-by malware because unlike many viruses—which activate when users open a file or attachment—this one can install itself when users simply click on a compromised website. Once infected, the victim's computer immediately locks, and the monitor displays a screen stating there has been a violation of federal law." According to Microsoft, the malware arrives on the computer as a DLL file with a random filename, and then creates a shortcut to itself in the Windows startup folder. Once loaded, the malware prevents the user from accessing the desktop, disables protective security software on the computer, and then downloads and executes other malware, including the localized desktop window containing the ransom demand.

Variations of the Reveton malware, along with its companion Citadel malware, have been around for over a year, and most of the major anti-spyware utilities can detect and kill it. Microsoft has published a manual removal method on its Microsoft Malware Protection Center website:

1. Press CTRL+O
2. In the dialogue box that opens, type the following as is, then press Enter: `cmd.exe`
3. In the command prompt window, type the following as is, then press Enter: `cd "%USERPROFILE%\Start Menu\Programs\StartUp"`
4. Still in the command prompt window, type the following as is, then press Enter: `del *.dll.lnk`
5. Still in the command prompt window, type the following as is, then press Enter: `shutdown -r -t 0`
6. Afterwards, run a full-system scan with an appropriate, up-to-date, security solution. The following Microsoft products detect and remove this threat; Microsoft Security Essentials, Microsoft Safety Scanner

I have also had good success removing this ransomware using the free portable version of SuperAntiSpyware ([www.superantispyware.com/portablescannerhome.html](http://www.superantispyware.com/portablescannerhome.html)). The free personal edition can be downloaded using another uninfected computer, and copied to a USB flash drive; detailed instructions are given on the webpage. This portable version is complete when downloaded, and does not require internet access in order to run and kill the malware; since the portable version is updated periodically prior to downloading, later scans may require a more recent copy of the software. Completely turn off (shut down or power down) the infected computer, and then reboot it into "Safe Mode" by pressing the "F8" key immediately after turning the power on, and every few seconds until the safe mode screen appears; select either the basic "Safe Mode" or "Safe Mode with Networking" (not required). Plug in the USB flash drive containing the portable version of SuperAntiSpyware, and run the downloaded file directly from the flash drive. While a quick scan may only take a few minutes, a full scan will take much longer, but is more comprehensive; remove or quarantine whatever the SuperAntiSpyware scan finds. Remove the flash drive, and reboot the computer.

If the computer reboots properly, without the ransomware window, it is still possible that there is some deeply hidden malware still on the computer. While it is highly likely that the portable version of SuperAntiSpyware will detect and remove the ransomware, no cleaning utility is 100% effective at removing all malware, so I always perform a redundant scan with another security utility. If the computer appears to boot properly, go online and download the free version of MalwareBytes from [www.malwarebytes.org/products/malwarebytes\\_free](http://www.malwarebytes.org/products/malwarebytes_free). Install the MalwareBytes, update it, and perform a full scan; if it says that you are clean, and SuperAntiSpyware says that you are clean, your computer is likely clean. Since the ransomware may have disabled or destroyed your security software, it would be a good choice to reinstall a good quality security suite, keeping one fact in mind: If the ransomware was able to easily penetrate your previous security software, it is quite possible that your security software was either inadequate or not properly updated, which allowed the ransomware to infect your computer. Now may be the time to install a different, probably

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Continued from page 12 **FBI Warnings**

better and more comprehensive security suite, one that provides protection from compromised websites; once the new security software is installed and updated, it may be very appropriate to perform another full security scan.

It is sad that international cyber crooks can easily extort money from innocent victims anywhere in the world, but being proactive, and knowing how to deal with the threat before it occurs may mitigate the stress, grief, and expense of dealing with this ransomware. It is nice to know that the FBI and other international law enforcement agencies are trying to deal with the threat. If these guys are caught, I hope that they are severely punished, but I am not so naive as to think that it will not happen again; one thing certain is that it will happen again, so be prepared! **Knowledge is power, and now, you have the power.**

**COMPUTER TUTOR**

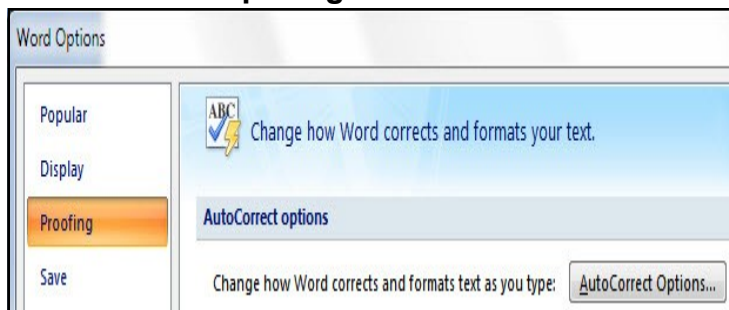
From the Desk of Pamela Tabak  
**DEDICATED TO THE COMPUTER  
EDUCATION OF SENIORS**

e-mail: [pamla@computertutorinc.net](mailto:pamla@computertutorinc.net)  
website: [www.computertutorinc.net](http://www.computertutorinc.net)

**Add a text entry to the AutoCorrect list**

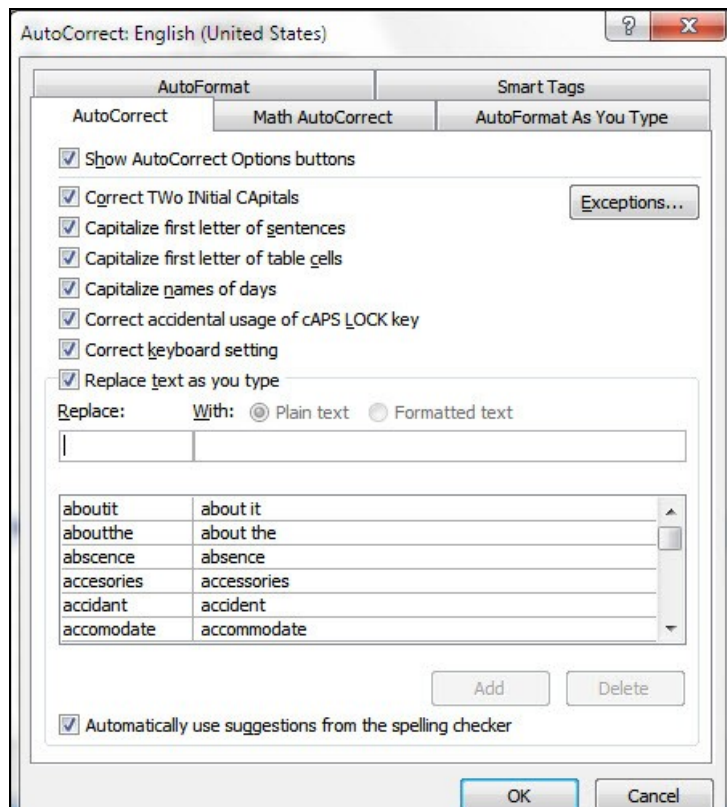
1. Click the **File** tab .
2. Click **Options**.
3. Click **Proofing**.

If you are using **Microsoft Outlook**, click **Mail**, and then click **Spelling and AutoCorrect**.



4. Click **AutoCorrect Options**.
5. On the **AutoCorrect** tab, make sure the **Replace text as you type** check box is selected
6. In the **Replace** box, type a word or phrase that you often mistype or misspell — for example, type **usually**
7. In the **With** box, type the correct spelling of the word — for example, type **usually**

8. Click **Add**.
9. Click **OK**

**Change the contents of a text entry in the AutoCorrect list.**

1. Click the **File** tab.
2. Click **Options**.
3. Click **Proofing**.  
If you are using **Microsoft Outlook**, click **Mail**, and then click **Spelling and Auto Correct**.
4. Click **AutoCorrect Options**.
5. On the **AutoCorrect** tab, make sure the **Replace text as you type** check box is selected.
6. Click the entry in the list. It will appear in the **Replace** box.
7. Type the new entry in the **With** box.

**DEFINITION OF WORD OF THE MONTH FOR SEPTEMBER****“HIGH DENSITY”**

High-density storage for data storage devices like floppy disks, CDs, DVDs, Blue-ray Discs or Hard Disk Drives refers to the amount of information they manage. High density storage devices require high density drives.



For help, you can also log onto ICON's Forum at [www.iconusersgroup.org](http://www.iconusersgroup.org) and post your questions. Free registration is required in order to post questions and then you need to wait a day or so for an email confirmation to complete the registration. However, while you're there, click on Search and enter the topic about which you'd like information and see if someone has already started a 'thread' — a series of question and responses. All questions and responses can be read without having to register.

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an issue for me. However, not everyone else does. If I want to share some files with a friend who use a Mac, he or she probably doesn't have an NTFS driver installed and therefore would be locked out.

Some full-length movies are larger than four gigabytes, so that can be a problem. However, you can use third-party apps on Windows or Macintosh (I suggest [Handbrake](#)) to compress the files. Even a two-hour movie should compress to something smaller than four gigabytes and still produce an excellent image on an iPad or a laptop computer. However, if displaying a compressed video on a large high-definition television in the living room, you might notice some video degradation.

*(More information regarding this article may be found by subscribing to the plus edition of Eastman's on line Genealogy newsletter)*

If you know of someone in our group who is ill or has suffered a loss in the family, please contact Pat Burton, [patbu35@yahoo.com](mailto:patbu35@yahoo.com), 886-7356.

### BASIC COMPUTER CLASSES

Basic computer classes are taught at St John's Whiteside Clinic lab by ICON members Mary Phillips and Art Irish with ICON helpers for five sessions each month plus three sessions on Internet & email. Sign up by calling St John's Seniors 841-0333. Need a refresher course or want to be a helper, now's your chance. We guarantee you'll learn something you didn't know!

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